

**In the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

1. (currently amended) A receiver lock for securing an object to a receiver, said lock comprising:

a linear shaft having a first end and a second opposite end;

a locking head having a shaft insertion end and a key insertion end, said shaft insertion end selectively coupled to said first end of said shaft, and said second end disengaged from said locking head;

a stop member located at said second opposite end of the shaft; and

a protective covering partially enclosing an axial length of said locking head and located on the shaft insertion end of said locking head and including a hole for receiving the first end of the shaft and providing an interference fit with the shaft;

wherein said protective covering is compressible between said locking head and said receiver to form a sealed barrier between said locking head and said linear shaft;

wherein said stop member is disposed remote from said locking head when said shaft insertion end is selectively coupled to said first end of said shaft.

2. (original) The receiver lock of claim 1, wherein said protective covering is elastomeric.

3. (previously presented) The receiver lock of claim 1, wherein said stop member is a portion of said shaft having an increased diameter.

4. (original) The receiver lock of claim 1, wherein said stop member is a bent end of the shaft.

5. (original) The receiver lock of claim 1, further comprising a locking mechanism located within said locking head.

6. (previously presented) The receiver lock of claim 1, further comprising a protective cap selectively attachable to said key insertion end of the locking head opposite the protective covering.

7. (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) The receiver lock of claim 1, wherein said protective covering includes a portion of the same diameter as a cylindrical outer peripheral surface of the locking head.

9-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A receiver lock for securing a ball mount to a receiver, said lock comprising:

a linear shaft having a first end and a second opposite end;

a locking head having a shaft insertion end and a key insertion end, said shaft insertion end selectively coupled to said first end of said shaft;

a stop member located at [[a]] said second opposite end of the shaft; and

an elastomeric protective covering partially enclosing an axial length of said locking head and located on an outer edge of the shaft insertion end of said locking head and including a hole for receiving the first end of the shaft and providing an interference fit with the shaft, wherein said protective covering includes a portion of the same diameter as a cylindrical outer peripheral surface of the locking head;

wherein said stop member is disposed remote from said locking head when said shaft insertion end is selectively coupled to said first end of said shaft.

18. (cancelled)

19. (previously presented) The receiver lock of claim 17, further comprising a protective cap selectively attachable to said key insertion end of the locking head opposite the protective covering.
20. (previously presented) The receiver lock of claim 17, wherein said stop member is a portion of said shaft having an increased diameter.
21. (previously presented) The receiver lock of claim 17, further comprising a shaft protective cover located on the outside of said shaft, wherein said shaft protective cover is disposed between said locking head and said stop member.
22. (previously presented) The receiver lock of claim 17, wherein said protective covering is compressible between said locking head and said receiver.
23. (previously presented) The receiver lock of claim 1, wherein said protective covering acts as a seal to prevent debris from entering an internal portion of said locking head.
24. (previously presented) The receiver lock of claim 17, wherein said protective covering acts as a seal to prevent debris from entering an internal portion of said locking head.
25. (withdrawn) A receiver lock assembly comprising:
  - a linear shaft having a first end with an external circumferential recess and a second end having a stop member;
  - a locking mechanism including a lock housing, a lock cylinder fixed within said housing, a rotatable cam engaged to said lock cylinder, and a locking plate coupled to said cam, wherein said locking plate is selectively coupled to said external recess of said first end of a shaft; and
  - a shaft protective cover located on the outside of said shaft, wherein said protective covering is disposed between said lock housing and said stop member.

26. (withdrawn) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said stop member is a bent end of the shaft.

27. (withdrawn) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said stop member is a portion of said shaft having an increased diameter.

28. (withdrawn) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said stop member is a radially protruding member.

29. (withdrawn) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said shaft protective cover is a radius adapter.

30. (withdrawn) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said shaft protective cover is a stainless steel cylinder.

31. (withdrawn) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25, wherein said shaft protective cover is a coating.

32. (withdrawn) The receiver lock assembly of claim 25 further comprising a protective covering partially enclosing an axial length of said locking housing and including a hole for receiving the first end of the shaft, wherein said protective covering acts as a seal to prevent debris from entering an internal portion of said locking head.

33. (currently amended) The receiver lock assembly of claim 17 wherein said protective covering is compressible between said locking head and said receiver to form a sealed barrier between said locking head and said linear shaft.

34. (new) The receiver lock of claim 1, wherein said protective covering includes an internal groove that snaps into a corresponding groove on the outer peripheral surface of the locking head.

35. (new) The receiver lock of claim 17, wherein said protective covering includes an internal groove that snaps into a corresponding groove on the outer peripheral surface of the locking head.

36. (new) A trailer locking assembly for securing a trailer hitch to a hitch ball, said locking assembly comprising:

- a) a trailer hitch;
- b) a hitch ball;
- c) a latch fixed to said trailer hitch and having an opening therethrough, wherein said latch is rotatable between an open position and a closed position in contact with said hitch ball;
- d) a linear shaft having a first end and a second end, said first end sized for insertion through said latch opening;
- e) a locking head having a shaft insertion end and a key insertion end, said shaft insertion end selectively coupled to said first end of said shaft;
- f) a stop member located at said second end of the shaft, wherein said stop member is disposed remote from said locking head when said shaft insertion end is selectively coupled to said first end of said shaft and said latch is in said closed position; and
- g) a protective covering partially enclosing an axial length of said locking head and located on an outer edge of the shaft insertion end of said locking head and having a hole for receiving the first end of said shaft and providing an interference fit with said shaft.

37. (new) The trailer locking assembly of claim 36, wherein said protective covering includes a portion of the same diameter as a cylindrical outer peripheral surface of the locking head.

38. (new) The trailer locking assembly of claim 36, wherein said protective covering is compressible between said locking head and said trailer latch to form a sealed barrier between said locking head and said linear shaft.